

LUC-420/Florkey 7-7-15-7-23

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1 1. (Currently amended) An apparatus, comprising:

2 an application server component that receives one or more notifications of one or
3 more open communication sessions from one or more first communication devices,
4 wherein the one or more notifications are not limited to telephone numbers; and

5 wherein the application server component sends at least one ~~or more~~ of the one
6 or more notifications of at least one ~~or more~~ of the one or more open communication
7 sessions to one or more second communication devices; and

8 wherein upon a request by a communication device of the one or more second
9 communication devices to join an open communication session of the at least one ~~or~~
10 ~~more~~ of the one or more open communication sessions, the application server
11 component initiates a connection of the communication device to the open
12 communication session.

1 2. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the at least one ~~or~~
2 ~~more~~ of the one or more notifications comprise information of the one or more of the
3 one or more open communication sessions; and

4 wherein the application server component sends the at least one ~~or more~~ of the
5 one or more notifications to the one or more second communication devices to output
6 the information to one or more users of the one or more second communication
7 devices.

1 3. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the information
2 comprises one or more topics of the one or more of the one or more open

LUC-420/Florkey 7-7-15-7-23

3 communication sessions; and

4 wherein the one or more users of the one or more second communication
5 devices comprise a user of the communication device, and wherein the user employs
6 the communication device to make a selection of a topic from the one or more topics,
7 and wherein the topic corresponds to the open communication session; and

8 wherein the communication device sends the request that comprises the topic to
9 the application server component to join the open communication session; and

10 wherein upon receipt of the request, the application server component initiates
11 the connection of the communication device to the open communication session.

1 4. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the information
2 comprises a list of the one or more first communication devices; and

3 wherein the one or more users of the one or more second communication
4 devices comprise a user of the communication device, and wherein the user employs
5 the list to make a determination to join the open communication session; and

6 wherein upon the determination, the communication device sends the request to
7 the application server component; and

8 wherein upon receipt of the request, the application server component initiates
9 the connection of the communication device to the open communication session.

1 5. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the information
2 comprises a limit to a number of the one or more second communication devices able to
3 participate in the open communication session; and

4 wherein once the number of the one or more second communication devices in
5 the open communication session reaches the limit, the application server component

LUC-420/Florkey 7-7-15-7-23

6 rejects subsequent requests of the one or more second communication devices to join
7 the open communication session.

1 6. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the request comprises
2 a session identification of the open communication session, and wherein the application
3 server component sends the session identification to the one or more control
4 components to initiate the connection of the communication device to the open
5 communication session; and

6 wherein the one or more control components employ the session identification to
7 connect the communication device to the open communication session.

1 7. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein a third communication
2 device accesses the application server component to obtain a list of the one or more
3 open communication sessions; and

4 wherein upon a request by the third communication device to join the open
5 communication session, the application server component initiates a connection of the
6 third communication device to the open communication session.

1 8. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein prior to receipt of the
2 request from the communication device by the application server component, the one or
3 more first communication devices send a notification of a private communication
4 session to at least one or more of the one or more second communication devices; and

5 wherein the open communication session becomes the private communication
6 session.

1 9. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the application server

LUC-420/Florkey 7-7-15-7-23

2 component receives one or more requests to join the private communication session
3 from the at least one ~~or more~~ of the one or more second communication devices.

1 10. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the application server
2 component sends one or more rejections of the one or more requests to the at least one
3 ~~or more~~ of the one or more second communication devices.

1 11. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the application server
2 component sends one or more acceptances of the one or more requests to the at least
3 one ~~or more~~ of the one or more second communication devices.

1 12. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the one or more
2 open communication sessions comprise one or more voice chat rooms, and wherein the
3 one or more notifications of the one or more open communication session comprise one
4 or more notifications of one or more topics of the one or more voice chat rooms; and
5 wherein the application server component sends at least one ~~or more~~ of the one
6 or more notifications of at least one ~~or more~~ of the one or more voice chat rooms to the
7 one or more second communication devices.

1 13. (Currently amended) A method, comprising the steps of:
2 sending one or more notifications of one or more open communication sessions
3 to one or more communication devices, wherein the one or more notifications are not
4 limited to telephone numbers;

5 receiving a request to join an open communication session of the one or more
6 open communication sessions from a communication device of the one or more
7 communication devices; and

LUC-420/Florkey 7-7-15-7-23

8 initiating a connection of the communication device to the open communication
9 session.

1 14. (Currently amended) The method of claim 13, wherein the one or more
2 notifications comprise information of the one or more open communication sessions,
3 and wherein the information comprises one or more of a topic, a list of one or more
4 users of the one or more communication devices, and a list of the one or more open
5 communication sessions, and wherein the one or more of the topic and the list
6 correspond to the communication session, and wherein the step of receiving the request
7 to join the open communication session from the communication device further
8 comprises the steps of:

9 employing the one or more of the topic, the list of the one or more users, and the
10 list of the one or more open communication sessions to make a determination to join the
11 open communication session; and

12 receiving the request to join the open communication session from the
13 communication device.

1 15. (Currently amended) The method of claim 13, wherein the one or more
2 notifications comprise information of the one or more open communication sessions,
3 and wherein the information comprises a limit to a number of the one or more
4 communication devices able to participate in the open communication session, and
5 wherein the step of receiving the request to join the open communication session from
6 the communication device further comprises the steps of:

7 receiving the request to join the open communication session from the
8 communication device upon reaching the limit of the number of the one or more

LUC-420/Florkey 7-7-15-7-23

9 communication devices; and

10 sending a rejection of the request to the communication device prior to initiation
11 of the connection of the communication device to the open communication session.

1 16. (Currently amended) The method of claim 13, wherein the request comprises
2 a session identification of the open communication session, and wherein the step of
3 initiating the connection of the communication device to the open communication
4 session further comprises the steps of:

5 receiving the session identification from the communication device; and
6 sending the session identification to one or more control components to connect
7 the communication device to the open communication session.

1 17. (Currently amended) The method of claim 13, wherein the step of initiating
2 the connection of the communication device to the open communication session further
3 comprises the steps of:

4 enabling access to a list of the one or more open communication sessions to a
5 second communication device;

6 receiving a request to join the open communication session from the second
7 communication device; and

8 initiating the connection of the second communication device to the open
9 communication session.

1 18. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein the one or more communication
2 devices comprise one or more first communication devices, the method further
3 comprising the steps of:

LUC-420/Florkey 7-7-15-7-23

4 receiving a notification of a private communication session prior to receipt of the
5 request to join the open communication from one or more second communication
6 devices;

7 sending the notification of the private communication session to one or more of
8 the one or more first communication devices; and

9 changing the open communication session to the private communication session.

1 19. (Currently amended) An article, comprising:

2 one or more computer-readable signal-bearing media;

3 means in the one or more media for sending one or more notifications of one or
4 more open communication sessions to one or more communication devices, wherein
5 the one or more notifications are not limited to telephone numbers;

6 means in the one or more media for receiving a request to join an open
7 communication session of the one or more open communication sessions from a
8 communication device of the one or more communication devices; and

9 means in the one or more media for initiating a connection of the communication
10 device to the open communication session.

1 20. (Currently amended) The article of claim 19, wherein the one or more
2 notifications comprise information of the one or more open communication sessions,
3 and wherein the information comprises one or more of a topic, a list of one or more
4 users of the one or more communication devices, and a list of the one or more open
5 communication sessions, and wherein the one or more of the topic and the list
6 correspond to the communication session, and wherein the means in the one or more
7 media for receiving the request to join the open communication session from the

LUC-420/Florkey 7-7-15-7-23

8 communication device comprises:

9 means in the one or more media for employing the one or more of the topic, the
10 list of the one or more users, and the list of the one or more open communication
11 sessions to make a determination to join the open communication session; and

12 means in the one or more media for receiving the request to join the open
13 communication session from the communication device.

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